

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4114

INFO USCINCSOUTH

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 4631

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS GT

SUBJECT: IG CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEVELS

REF: LAZAR-AMBASSADOR LETTER OF AUG 19

1. WE BELIEVE THAT FMS/C FOR GUATEMALA SHOULD REMAIN PROGRAMMED AT \$1,000,000 FOR FY 76. WE DOUBT THAT ANY SERIOUS POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS WILL ARISE IF OTHER CAS RECEIVE MORE FOR SEVERAL REASONS: (A) GUATEMALA HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE FMS/C IN LAST SEVERAL YEARS, PRINCIPALLY FOR PURCHASE OF A-37S. IN FACT GOG HAS RECEIVED ALL IT HAS WANTED IN WAY OF FMS/C FOR SOME TIME. (B) MOREOVER, BECAUSE OF BUDGET RESTRICTIONS, GUATEMALA AT PRESENT HAS NO PLANS FOR MAJOR PURCHASES IN NEAR FUTURE AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT EVEN THE MILLION WE HAVE PROGRAMMED WILL NOT BE USED.

2. RE TRAINING, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE \$400,000 PROGRAMMED FOR FY 75 AND 76 IS SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECTIVES. AS NOTED IN OUR CASP, WE ALREADY PLAN TO ENCOURAGE GREATER USE OF STATESIDE AND CANAL ZONE TRAINING AT MIDDLE AND UPPER LEVELS WITHIN OUR RECOMMENDED PROGRAM. WE SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT

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WE EXPECT TO HAVE AN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT SELLING

JOB TO GET THE GUATEMALANS TO UTILIZE THIS TYPE OF TRAINING. FOR EXAMPLE, MOD HAS SHOWN INCREASING DISINCLINATION TO USE THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF LEVEL COURSES WE HAVE OFFERED. WE WOULD WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENCOURAGE INCREASING MILITARY EXPOSURE TO CIVILIAN TRAINING.

3. ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF "EVENHANDEDNESS" OR MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE RATIOS, WE HAVE TWO THOUGHTS. FIRST, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GUATEMALA SHOULD BE FORCE-FED WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE IT DOES NOT NEED BECAUSE OF THE REAL OR FELT NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. SECOND, IF A REGIONAL ALLOCATION SYSTEM IS TO BE ADOPTED, WE BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE ON A RELATIVELY LONG-TERM RATHER THAN A YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS. THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE COMPARISONS EACH YEAR, IF THE GENERAL RATIO IS NOT OUT OF LINE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD CERTAINLY BE ACCEPTABLE IN GUATEMALA. FOR EXAMPLE, SINCE GUATEMALA HAS ALREADY RECEIVED ENOUGH FMS/C TO PURCHASE 12 A-37S FOR ITSELF IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE GOG WOULD BE UPSET IF HONDURAS WERE TO GET A LARGE FMS/C TO BUY, SAY, 6 A-37S IN FY 76, WHILE GUATEMALA GETS RELATIVELY LITTLE.
MELOY

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